

BLUE GRASS BLADE

A. T. Parker
High and Ashland East Side

WE AIM TO CUT DOWN ERROR AND ESTABLISH TRUTH.

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PRIEST KEEPS HIS POWER

Through Doctrine of Immortality of the Soul. Destroy this Belief and the Influence of Priesthood is Gone.

CANNOT BE DEMONSTRATED
TO THE SENSES

(From the Searchlight).

As long as the priesthood can prolong a belief in the immortality of the soul and make men believe they live on as conscious beings after they are dead, just so long can they control them by playing on their fears. Those who have no belief in another existence beyond the grave care no more for priests and preachers than they do for the vapors of a lunatic.

The gentleman in black, with solemn visage and nimble tongue, inspires them with no terror, as they take him for just what he is—a rank fakir, who has no knowledge they do not possess, but who wishes to exert arbitrary power and to make an easy living by working his mouth instead of his hands. The man who believes that death ends all, can no more be enslaved by the priestcraft than a bird on the wing can be caught by a cat. But when a man thinks he has an immortal soul, and the priest or the preacher has power to insure happiness for him in some other world, then his liberty to think and act is gone; for one or the other does his thinking for him, and regulates his actions in religious matters. He is told that this life is short and of little account compared with the next one, and only by accepting certain teachings of the church, and conforming to its creeds and customs can he hope to escape endless misery and enjoy eternal happiness. He is then ready to do what they tell him to get into heaven, where he will be happy forever; so he becomes the willing tool of the priesthood and puts up his money to support them and build churches. Century after century this thing has gone on, and millions today are being worked by the same old method—that everlasting play upon fear.

When we reflect on this fact it makes one doubt that general intelligence will ever overthrow the priesthood, and that a time will come when all will see and acknowledge that no one knows the least thing about immortal souls and another existence. The world is farther advanced on lines of science right now than it ever was before, and the brightest minds that ever sought to penetrate the secrets of Nature have failed to find the least evidence that a man's consciousness survives the death of his body. Yet priests and preachers go on proclaiming a continued existence in an invisible form and an invisible world. They also profess to know just what is going on there and what will be, throughout an endless eternity. If we ask for evidence we are told the necessity of faith in some old book, written by their predecessors when the intellectual level of mankind was so low they believed in the semi-barbarian class.

On these ancient writings is based the faith of millions who believe, but not a solitary fact can be found in Nature to show that any person physically dead is spiritually alive; in other words, has been transferred to a spirit world in full possession of the senses that were bestowed upon him in this one. The men who have doubted that we live forever, as conscious individuals, have been those who thought deeply upon the subject; not the superficial thinkers who let the emotions influence their judgment and sway their reason; for this class are prone to believe because desire and inclination lean that way. No member of the priesthood ever failed to play with full force and repetition on the human emotions, and the affectionate nature of men and women has been worked in time of deep sorrow caused by the death of some dear one, as well as their fears, which are ever stimulated to control belief and action. The pilots never took kindly to philosophy or science, for neither renders any aid to their system of faith, and both have a tendency to destroy it when approached. Reason is decidedly given to asking questions and demanding evi-

dence, so nothing is more strongly condemned by them than its use. The duty of the people is to believe, not question; while they do their thinking and decide for them what they shall believe. The majority of human beings do not think for themselves, and never did, and will they ever, is an open question. When a man begins to think about his soul he is compelled to reach the conclusion that it is located in his head, for when the body is paralyzed below the head and both sensation and motion are destroyed, it has been found that the thinking faculties are not affected. Let a blow of sufficient force hit the head and consciousness departs, either temporarily or permanently. Evidently we have found by this test the seat of the soul. Now, what is the soul? Said Voltaire: "In all the philosophers that have spoken of the human soul, I have found only blind men full of babble and temerity." No man lives, or ever did, that knew the least thing about that conscious and intelligent force located in our skulls, that animates our bodies and reveals the action of what we term mind. All we know about it is this: it appears simultaneously with the birth of the baby and apparently departs with the body; and apart from phenomena presented by what is called Spiritualism, that great secret of Nature's locked up in the word "death," has never been revealed to mortal man. All religions that teach the immortality of the soul rest upon faith alone; they have not scintilla of evidence to present, except the bare assertions contained in some so-called sacred book. And what are they? Nothing but the recorded opinions of men like ourselves, who lived in remote ages, with no more knowledge than we possess today. Next comes Spiritualism with its mysterious phenomena, which originated on the 31st of March, 1848, at which time intelligence seemingly separate and distinct from that of physical beings was manifested. These phenomena, according to the declaration of Moses Hall, lately deceased, is at the evidence the world contains to prove our continued existence beyond the grave. Does it do it? That is the question; if not, then we repeat the conundrum of Job in vain. Most of the phenomena of Spiritualism is explained in a natural manner by Hudson's Psychic Phenomena and he found it unnecessary to place the spirit of a dead man behind it to get his explanation. For many years the phenomena of Spiritualism was lively and vigorous; and extended far and wide today it is petering out so rapidly, L. K. Washburn recently this caustic remark in the Truth Seeker: "We used to hear of Spiritualism." So we did for time was when it interested thinking men and was a living force in society. Today it has no more vitality than a consumptive in the last stage, and exist as to the churches, as a religion with ordained reverends who pray, preach and pronounce benedictions. It is no longer a moving force on progressive lines of thought; its speakers are but echoes of the big guns that fired their ammunition years ago; its greatest manifestations are relics of the past; the shut-eyed medium is becoming extinct, and the Bible is ransacked for evidence to prove its claims. Spiritualism is slowly dying out, and the interest it once aroused when a petition signed by 15,000 Spiritualists was presented to both houses of Congress, asking those law-making bodies to investigate it, has died out. This was in 1854, and after some senator had wittily suggested that the petition be referred to 3,000 clergymen, it was voted to lay it on the table, and nothing came of it. With rare exceptions among scientific men, Spiritualism is rated with other superstitions that have for a time engaged the attention of mankind, and the greater portion of the world that accepts a belief in the immortality of the soul, does so through faith, as was the case up to 1848. The president of its national organization has publicly admitted that he believes 90 per cent. of public mediums are frauds working human credulity for the great American dollar; and I have no doubt that number could be increased, while the remainder that do deal in genuine mysterious phenomena are giving us nothing that completely removes doubt. The best mediums that Spiritualism ever had are dead, and A. J. Davis, the greatest oracle it ever had, has been silent for years; he long ago gave to the world all he had to give.

And what has Spiritualism ever given us regarding another world and another life that could not be evolved out of an ordinary imagination? Absolutely nothing; and to it we are indebted for nothing.

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SACRED BOSH OF THE HOLY BIBLE

The Creation of Darkness--Was the Lord a Coon--The First Checker Player--Jehovah as a Railroader--The Location of Heaven--Why it is not a Skating Rink or Natatorium--Other Theological Stunts

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE FUN MAKING PROJECT

(By JAMES ARMSTRONG, JR.)

Although God commenced to create the heavens and the earth in the beginning he didn't finish until some time after he started, for as immediately turned out of the planet factory "the earth was waste and void and darkness prevailed upon the face of the deep." From this it would seem that the Lord began to work at night and finished about sunrise. It is impossible however to imagine how the darkness came to exist; unless, as some of our colored brethren assert, Jehovah was a negro. Of course, if the Lord was black we can easily account for the darkness that "prevailed upon the face of the deep," but since like begets like, it is difficult to understand why the spirit of God moved upon the face of the deep unless he had in mind the creation of a Black sea.

The accounting for darkness however on the hypothesis that God was black, is open to serious objection. There is an equally strong argument that God was not black, for if He was good he was certainly "white." For my part, as a theologian; I think the Lord was both black and white. You see God "moved upon the face of the waters" and the logical inference is that he was playing checkers. This seems infallibly certain, as the earth was waste and there was nothing therefore for God to do but check it.

In this connection a very profound and important question arises. Was Jehovah the original baggage-master? I believe he was, and such belief is based on the fact that he "railroaded" creation in six days. The belief that God was a railroader furthermore is sustained by the fact that the earth was heavily watered, about seventy-five per cent according to the geographers. From all this the imagination can easily construct a picture of God. Being a railroader he was most likely a hairy, not a hairy man, but a hairy God, a thing which "I see" in accordance with strict biblical interpretation, although I am not insensible of the weight of the argument of those who do not accept my view, for God was certainly no fish. For if he had been, as seen by the light of our feeble reason, he most likely would have moved in the depths and not on the face of the waters.

At any rate we may believe that God is both hairy and spotted, and there are other reasons for thinking so besides those furnished by the railroad and checker arguments, although the railroad-checker exegesis is certainly swift enough to block any arguments to the contrary. But still for the benefit of those hardened infidels who talk so much about reason, in behalf of the hairy hypothesis I might refer them to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and a few other harrying things Jehovah did; as well as mention the fact that regardless of whether God was spotted in the beginning he is certainly "spotted" now, for are not all Christians next to God and all infidels "next" to Christians? This argument is not original, as I got it from a pious barber, a strapping big fellow who is always honing to trim the whiskers of the smart freethinker as well as the foolish Christian. This may sound a little too barbarous, but it should not be forgotten that the Lord was always fond of barbarians, the best example of which we find in the history of his chosen people.

After much pious meditation I find that Jehovah was the first poker player, "And God called the light day, and the darkness he called night!" He was also

the first mathematician, for it is said that "God made the firmament and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And God called the firmament--Heaven." You see in those days the sun was young and inexperienced and had not learned to draw water from the earth to the clouds for rain-making purposes and God used the other side of the firmament as a storage tank. In fact he was making preparation for the flood, for he knew he would have to drown out the earth notwithstanding he had pronounced it good.

In this connection there arise some curious speculations as to the location of heaven. According to Genesis I place it on the inside of the firmament. You see there is water on both sides of the firmament, and heaven must be inside the firmament, otherwise it would be at the bottom of an ocean if on the outside of the other side; it could not be on the outside on this side, for in that case the milk and honey would all be frozen and much harder than the ice on the tops of the highest mountains!

It would not only be absurd but also sacrilegious to regard heaven as a natatorium or a skating rink, and yet we must do one of these things if we locate it on either side of the firmament. Our piety therefore compels us to believe that heaven is on the inside out of the cold and wet. This idea is strengthened by the reflection that an angel couldn't very well go on a skate although he might get along fairly well in the celestial swim.

GOD

PROCLAIMED A MYTH

Even Above the Grave of Loved Ones

Now Gone the Church of Humanity

ty Makes Denial of Useless

Idolatry.

CHRISTIANS ARE ALSO

KNOWN AS HEATHENS.

(By W. H. Kerr.)

"Above the graves of cherished loved ones the Church of Humanity proclaims God a Myth."

All people, our loved ones included, who worship any god, or voluntarily contribute to the teaching and support of such worship, must be classed as heathens, idolaters and pagans. These names are not given them through disrespect or contempt, but to express a truth revealed by the discovery that God is a myth.

Webster defines "idolater" in two definitions to be "one who worships as a deity that which is not God; a pagan." Since the discovery is positively made that no thing in the universe is God, the worship of any thing is the worship of "that which is not God." Hence all worshippers come under the above definitions. Christian speaks of Oriental people with great contempt, as being heathens, idolaters and pagans, because they worship "that which is not God," not knowing that they themselves are

doing the same thing and belong to the same class. Those Asiatic people do not know they are worshipping "that which is not God" any more than Christians do in their worship. It would not better matters in the least were the two sets of idolaters to swap idols, or both sets worship the same idol. They would still be subjects to the same definitions--heathens, idolaters and pagans.

Webster defines heathen as: "A pagan; an idolater." In the light of the new discovery that there is no such a thing as a God all those definitions are applicable to the Christians. The definitions also apply to those who do not worship "the true God." But since the discovery that there is no "true God" to worship the definition cannot apply to those who have learned that discovery. Dictionaries are change from time to time to conform to new discoveries and new alignments of the people. The discoveries made and taught by the Church of Humanity will necessitate many new changes in dictionaries.

I ask Christians to remember when they see the name heathen, idolater or pagan applied to them in this paper that it is used to describe those who worship "that which is not God," according to Webster, and not as an expression of contempt or abuse. I want you Christians to learn the discovery that there is no such thing as a real God in existence, that you may cease worshipping "that which is not God" and thereby free yourselves from the application of the above names. I submit to your calm consideration and unbiased judgment the following positive proof that the God and Jesus Christ you worship are purely creations of fiction, having not the slightest existence whatever. These imaginary beings you have endowed with unlimited power and wisdom, and a deep feeling of love, pity and sympathy for man. This evidence shows beyond doubt that no care, love, pity, sympathy or aid is ever extended to man from unseen beings in the slightest degree and that therefore such beings do not exist in reality, but are only creations of fiction like Santa Claus. In this evidence the horrible, shocking details of a appalling life-extinguishing disasters must be omitted for lack of room. You will read them in the daily papers you take and I refer you to them for the details of the suffering of the victims in many cases:

Montreal, Feb. 27.- In a fire which destroyed the Hochelaga Protestant school, in the east end of the city, the woman principal and sixteen children lost their lives.

St. Paul, Feb. 13.- Thirty-one dead bodies from freezing, have been brought into the various towns of the northwest.

La Crosse, Wis., Feb. 25.- Three killed and three fatally injured in a train wreck on the St. Paul road.

London, Feb. 25.- Two hundred persons were killed by a cyclone that struck southern points of the Philippine islands.

Hamburg, March 5.- Eleven seamen drowned in a collision between two steamers.

Hong Kong, Jan. 28.- One hundred Chinese are reported dead as a result of a terrific rainstorm.

Centropolis, Kan. Feb. 8.- Mrs. Frank Schmeck and her two children were found dead in bed with their throats horribly cut.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 26.- A little 5-year-old girl killed by a street car.

Buffalo, Jan. 28.- Three firemen killed.

Sacramento, Feb. 8.- Seven people drowned.

Chicago, Jan. 30.- One death every ten minutes from contagious diseases sweeping the city.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 12.- Forty men killed and scores injured by an explosion in the mines at Bakmut today.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Feb. 9.- Eight miners killed by suffocation from a fire in the mines near here.

Chicago, Jan. 28.- Four men killed by a tank explosion.

Freeport, Ill., Feb. 8.- Three killed in a train wreck.

Bismark, N. D., Feb. 5.- A mother and five children frozen to death at Goodrich.

Copenhagen, Denmark, Feb. 23.- Eighteen seamen drowned.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 27.- Three passengers killed in a train wreck.

Aggeiras, March 4.- Eighty five persons have been buried by a landslide near Sedrata. Fifteen square miles of earth gone away.

Elkins, W. Va., Feb. 5.- Thirty miners entombed as an result of an explosion in mine 25 of the Davis Coal company and cannot be rescued alive.

Thurmond, W. Va., Jan. 30.- Seventy-nine miners killed by an explosion in the Stewart mine.

Hook of Holland, Feb. 21.- In a fearful

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CUBA JOINS OUR GROUP

Interesting Letter From Havana by a Blade Subscriber. Important Matters Discussed Openly and Fearlessly.

IDEAS FOR YOUR
BRAIN TO WORK ON.

(By CAPT. B. F. CLARK.)

109 Concordia, Havana, Cuba, March, 1907: Editor Blue Grass Blade:—In sending you remittance to cover (I think) the tenth renewal of my subscription to the Blade, the spirit moves me to express my ideas and give you my opinions upon the various matters which has been discussed in its columns during the past year; first in order comes the increase in the subscription rate to \$1.50 per annum, which I regard as a step in the right direction. I am quite willing to pay that price and as I have heretofore had occasion to state, you may regard me as a life member or subscriber. Next comes the question of organization, or the formation of a party upon a platform expressive of the general ideas entertained by Infidels, as that term is generally understood by Christians and non-Christians in all matters relating to religion. I have read the arguments pro and con as presented by your contributors and you may put me down as an opponent who is strongly adverse to any such attempt or movement among our people; we are pestered ad nauseam by an infernal lot of pigmy minded, chicken brained galsots, whose principal stock in trade is sentimentalism and phenomenal gall, who are professional organizers, their intention being to create as it were, a very large and exceedingly good natural dog without a tail, they themselves then become the tail and try to wag the dog and whenever they have a dam fool dog they are successful in their designs until they fall out and begin to quarrel and fight among themselves, when the dog is eternally spifflicated and exploded into primeval elements, leaving behind nothing but the tail in evidence of its evanescent existence. Parties may come and parties may go, but tails hang on forever. This is why "Liberal leagues," etc., have never amounted to anything or had any standing among men who have any great amount of grey matter stowed away in their respective skull pans. These organizers may spread their snares and catch crows and jackdaws innumerable, but no eagles. They may cast their nets and draw in sprats and tommy-cods in exceedingly great abundance, but no whales. They may bait their traps and corral chip munks, wood chucks and pole cats without number, but no lions, and so with the genus Homo. Men who stand out in bold relief among their fellow Morbals and who are conspicuous for mental endowments, stands aloof and fights shy of "entangling alliances." They know that individually, Infidels are strong powerful, but collectively, that is, as an organization "cribbled, cabined and confined" within "party lines," they are weak as a rope of sand, and when any of these professional organizers come fooling away any time among free-thinkers my advice is, to take a big club and disorganize them to that extent that they can never again be re-organized into harmiously working constituent parts until the angel Gabriel took his horn and cries out wake up boys and come to hell where you belong.

I have duly received and read Wilson's Rome book; personal letters have been exchanged between us, and he has sent me a photo of what he is pleased to call his "unholy mug," and I have retaliated in like manner. His photo occupies a prominent and conspicuous place in my gallery of celebrities, even as he himself occupies a high and prominent place in my estimation. Though there are times when I am in doubt as to whether I ought to throw a bouquet or a brick at him for when a man receives so many verbal bouquets as does the good doctor, an occasional brick in the bread basket cannot do him much harm and may have the contrary effect by aiding his digestive organs, and

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